

 11. (Once Amended.) A pharmaceutical composition comprising [a substantially purified human IMP-2 protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1] an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 1 in conjunction with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

12. (Once Amended.) A purified antibody which binds specifically to [the] a polypeptide of claim 1.

13. (Once Amended.) A purified agonist which specifically binds to and modulates the activity of [the] a polypeptide of claim 1.

14. (Once Amended.) A purified antagonist which specifically binds to and modulates the activity of [the] a polypeptide of claim 1.

15. (Once Amended.) A pharmaceutical composition comprising [the] an antagonist of claim 14 in conjunction with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

16. (Once Amended.) A method for treating liver disease comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of [the] a pharmaceutical composition of claim [13] 15.

17. (Once Amended.) A method for detection of [polynucleotides] a polynucleotide encoding [human IMP-2] a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 in a biological sample, said method comprising the steps of:

a) hybridizing [the polynucleotide of claim 2] an isolated and purified polynucleotide which is complementary to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 to nucleic acid material of a biological sample[, the]; and

b) detecting said hybridization complex, wherein the presence of said complex correlates with the presence of a polynucleotide encoding [human IMP-2] a polypeptide comprising SEQ